

DISORGANISED Dulwich Hamlet nervously cut their own throats at Loakes Park on Saturday.

With a player sent off just before, and scoring an own goal soon after the interval, the South Londoners did Wycombe Wanderers' job for them.

Once in every season every team is involved in a game that never really gets off the ground. Saturday was Wycombe's turn, and let's pray it doesn't come round again for a long, long time.

In between yawns the football had its moments, mostly highlighted by wild Wanderers shooting which all but threw Jodrell Bank into utter confusion.

Nonetheless, although Dulwich could, on reflection, have shared the points had they kept their heads, Wanderers were still worth their win; they did at least make the running.

There could be no doubting Wycombe's eagerness to have a go. And sure enough chances came and went in procession, while Hamlet stuck their leading striker Ray Major out in attack like a sore thumb, left to deal alone with the home defence.

By MIKE WHITESMAN: Wycombe Wanderers 1, Dulwich Hamlet 0

Iain MacLean, drafted in at left back while former Dulwich utility man Keith Blunt sat it out on the substitutes' bench, again found himself with little to do.

The tall, blond-haired Scot, yo-yoing in and out of flavour, seems destined to the quiet life this season. Most of his appearances to date have been against the dimmer lights of Isthmian League competition when traffic has flowed one way—towards the opposition's net.

This time though he went looking for action and offered several samples of his long-range shooting ability as he moved up in support of his forwards.

But unrivalled master of the boot is the erratic Bernie Bremer, who brought Hamlet's newly re-signed goalkeeper, Tony Edwards into play to cover an 18th minute drive.

Ironically, not so many seasons ago, a younger Bremer, former South London school-boy representative, was turned down by Hamlet after a trial.

The Dulwich backrow trembled with uncertainty every time it went into action, and placed an almost absolute faith in conceding corners. If they thought they were playing safe, they weren't. For it was from a corner that they ultimately panicked their way to defeat.

Indeed the 25th minute brought a dress rehearsal of the decisive own goal, when visiting number two, Billy Wallace nodded a Horseman corner frighteningly close to the mark.

Four minutes later, Hamlet escaped again as a split second clearance robbed Larry Pritchard of what was already being greeted as a goal.

Hugo, defending, despite the number ten on his shirt, gifted Wycombe a corner with a hurried clearance under pressure from Barry Baker in the 32nd minute.

As unlucky as Geoff Anthony was to have a low level shot swerve across the goalline and just outside the far post in the 35th minute, he still should have scored Wycombe's first four minutes later. He wrong-footed the ball into the side netting instead of crossing for any of three strikers to supply the finishing touches.

Wanderers' marked absence in midfield is perhaps the club's most pressing problem at present. Here is the heart of any team, yet, luckily for Dulwich, the Blues gave another weak display in this department.

Goalkeeper, Edwards, recently called in from Croydon Amateurs to fill the gap left by injuries to their two regular men, was the only positive thinker in the Dulwich defence.

He proved as much after 41 minutes by dashing off his line to intercept Horseman's cross before Wycombe could make anything of it.

Despite their pedestrian part in proceedings, Dulwich were

Two minutes earlier. Fred Sterling, a former Leatherhead winger, felled Keith Searle with a blow to the face during a Wanderers' raid. And while the centre-forward underwent some of trainer Jock Sheppard's special treatment, the Dulwich man was first booked and then ordered off by Mr. Cooper.

Under normal circumstances, Wanderers could have minced their opponents after the interval. But the only normal thing about the second half was its time span. And even that seemed to drag out.

Helping it go just that bit quicker was the own goal Dulwich gave away inside 60 seconds of the resumption as

Horseman forced a corner from Wycombe's first attack. Wallace had obviously not learnt caution from his first half let-off, and headed the ball round into his own net in trying to clear Tony's corner kick.

While Wanderers continued to shoot anywhere but on target, Kevin O'Brien stifled any flair shown by Dulwich strikers, and pulled off a fine save when John Swan sent in the visitors' first really dangerous attempt in the 65th minute.

But the game badly needed goals, and not even Bremer pounding the crossbar nine minutes later could compensate for the lack of excitement.

There was, however, one

almight shock left in store for the Blues when, with eight minutes to play, Hugo curled the ball on to the bottom post as MacLean tried unsuccessfully to cover the breakaway raid and O'Brien was left with his whole goal to cover at once.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS: K. O'Brien, P. Fuschillo, L. MacLean, E. Powell, J. Delaney, B. Baker, A. Horseman, L. Pritchard, K. Searle, B. Bremer, G. Anthony. Sub.: K. Blunt (not used).

DULWICH HAMLET: A. Edwards, B. Wallace, J. Harding, P. Smith, J. Crotty, J. Swann, F. Sterling, B. O'Connell, V. Heasman, M. Hugo, R. Major. Sub: B. West (not used).

Goalscorer: Wycombe — Wallace (46 o.g.).
Referee: Mr. A. H. Cooper (Wymondham, Norfolk).
Attendance: 2,600.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE (Leading positions)												
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P					
Sutton	17	13	1	3	31	16	27					
Wycombe	15	12	2	1	36	10	26					
Oxford C.	18	10	4	4	33	17	24					
Hendon	17	10	3	4	46	18	23					
Enfield	14	9	2	3	22	7	20					
Barking	18	8	3	7	35	20	19					
Leytonstone	16	7	5	4	28	18	19					
St. Albans	12	6	5	1	23	11	17					